AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 18, with the following:

In one embodiment a modem may be utilized to connect data processing system 100 to a network server via remote access protocols. In yet another embodiment, a network adapter is utilized to connect data processing system 100 or 207 to a Local Area Network (LAN) as depicted in Figure 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1, with the following:

The preferred embodiment of the present invention is concerned with the controlling of access to system console functions on a network using an authentication procedure that not only authenticates the operator each time he/she accesses the console program and the device but also encodes data transmitted during the console session to prevent unauthorized access or interception. As illustrated, network devices [[200]] comprise[[s]] a computer system (or server) 203 that includes console control program 204A, device table 204B, and user table 204C. Application of device table 204B and user table 204C are described further below. Connected to server 203 are three client systems 207A-207C. Client systems 207A-207C comprise data processing system 100 illustrated in **Figure 1**, and may each be utilized as a system console device in the present invention. Client system A 207A is directly connected to server 203 via local connection 209. Client systems 207B, 207C are connected to server 203 via a network 205, which may be a LAN or WAN. Connection between server 203 and client systems 207B, 207C may be via direct access (e.g., an ethernet with connection lines) or remote access (e.g., wireless access).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 12, with the following:

The present invention makes use of the encrypted key exchange (EKE) algorithm described in United States Patent (Ser. No. 5,241,299) (Ser. No. 5,241,599) entitled "Cryptographic Protocol For Secure Communications," the relevant content of which is hereby incorporated by reference. It is to be understood, however, that the invention may be implemented with other similar encryption algorithms including algorithms yet-to-be developed that utilize the basic framework or functionality of the EKE algorithm, and the references herein

to a specific EKE algorithm should not be construed as limiting the invention to only that algorithm.